(c) wheher it is a fact that TATA's who were on the RBI Board earlier do not find a place in the re-constituted Board; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) The Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is a continuing entity and vacancies that arise are filled up from time to time. In terms of the provisions contained in Section 8 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Central Board of Directors of he RBI shall consist of among others, ten non-official directors to be nominated by the Central Government. These directors hold office for a period of four year and thereafter until their successors are nominated. At present, eight non official directors, appointed during 1983-86, are in position. No person by the name of TATA is a director on the Central Board of RBI. Though their four year tenures have expired, they are continuing in position pending appointment of their successors as per the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Government have initiated necessary steps for reconstitution of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India.

Report submitted by the Committee on Indian Telegraph Act 1885

*293. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee Constituted to review the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its major recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Major recomendations of the Nanda Committee

The Committee has recommended passing of a new single legislation covering the Indian Telegraph Act (1885), The Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act (1933) and the Indian Telegraph Wires Unlawful possession Act (1950) and to name the new Act as "The Indian Telecommunication Act" (199).

The tone of the Act which was Authority oriented is sought to be changed to service or consumer oriented. The main recommendations of the Committee are as under :

1. The scope of the section relating to privileges and powers of the Government has been proposed to be considerably enlarged by defining the status and role of the different players in the business of telecommunications. In addition to the privileges and powers, the duties and responsibilities have also been added.

2. No change has been proposed in the privileges of the Central Government to establish, maintain and operate telecommunication systems, apparatus and services and the power of the Central Government to grant licenses.

3. In the environment of a possibility of a number of licensee service providers, besides the Central Government, the Committee has recommended that the status of the organisation of the Government responsible for establishment, maintenance and operation of telecommunication systems, apparatus and services retained by the Government under the above privilege should be a par with the licensee service providers for the purpose of regulation and controls. Also this

organisation should have an dentity distinctly separate from the Central Government. The Committee has proposed that this organisation may be called "telecom operating authority".

4. It is proposed that the Central Government should be responsible for the functions which are common to all the service providers namely:

(i) Standardisation (ii) Reearch and development (iii) Preperation and monitoring of the development plans. (iv) Regulation and management of frequency spectrum. (v) Management of relations with International Bodies.

5. The Central Government should create a statutory authority to monitor and regulate the services and settle the disputes between the subscribers and the service provider, or between two service poviders This authority has been given the name "telecom regulatory authority" and its duties and responsibilities have been listed in the proposed Act.

6. In order to make the Act service oriented, the duties and responsibilities of the "service provider" and the "subscriber" have been listed in the proposed Act.

7 The section dealing with the rates for transmission of telecommunications within and outside India is proposed to be modified and factors to be kept in view while fixing these rates have been listed.

8 The section relating to settlement of disputes is proposed to have provision to deal with disputes between subscriber and the service provider and also the disputes between two service providers. The arbitrator is proposed to be appointed by the telecom regulating authority instead of the Central Government.

9. A modification in section dealing with fraudulent use of telecommunication system is proposed to widen it to include any person who dishonestly obtains telecommunication service with a view to avoid payment, and employee, helping him to do so.

10. A new section has been proposed to take care of the improper use of the telecommunication system by sending malicious and obscene telecommunications.

Negotiations with multinationals

*294. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been negotiatnig with certain multinationals for the purpose of placing orders with such multinationals which could agree on suppliers credit and accept deferred payments;

(b) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken by Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what is the present position

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) There is a proposal consideration of the Government to purchase recently validated switching systems from Indian Companies who have entered into collaboration with some multinationals to supply a few lakhs lines on deferred payments.

Bank Credit to Small Scale Industries

*295. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Hindu' dated the 12th June, 1993 regarding harsher lending practices by banks in respect of small scale industries leading to sickness;

(b) if so, what is the factual position; and